

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES

February 28, 2021

The Second Sunday in Lent

Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

DURING LENT, WE WORSHIP TOGETHER USING THE  
TRADITIONAL FORM OF THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES (RITE 1)

## The Word of God

Choral Voluntary                      Lead Me, Lord                      Samuel Sebastian Wesley  
*Sung by members of the St. James Choir of Men & Women*                      (1810-1876)

Opening Hymn                      The God of Abraham Praise                      Hymn 401

## The Penitential Order and Decalogue

*Celebrant*            Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
*People*                **His mercy endureth for ever.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them. **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honor thy father and thy mother.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt do no murder.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not steal.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not covet.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

## Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Trisagion

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Black History Moment (With Anita James, Karen Mingo-Campbell, and Lyenda Delp)

Leader: Behold! Listen!

Congregation: **This is important!**

### Collect for the Community (*Read together in unison*)

Gracious God, strengthen in us the two values that we hold central as a Christian Community. These values are inspired by Jesus' two great commandments. First, we love God or something greater than ourselves with all our hearts and mind, and second we commit to loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. There is no boundary or condition to our love and commitment to God or to our neighbor, no matter who they may be. All are welcome in this place. Amen.

### The First Reading

*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

*A reading from the Book of Genesis*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Psalm (*Call and respond, alternating by verse*)

*Psalm 22:22-30*

22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; \* stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 **For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; \* but when they cry to him he hears them.**

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \* I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \* "May your heart live for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 **For kingship belongs to the LORD; \* he rules over the nations.**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \* all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 **My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \* they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Epistle

Romans 4:13-25

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to Thee, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. C. Melissa Hall

*Please reflect for a moment on the words of the Sermon before continuing in the Service*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Carlye; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed (pause for names). Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for (pause for names from the prayer list)

I ask your thanksgiving for (pause for names)

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored (pause for dedication). Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

**Concluding Collect**

## The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Comfortable Words

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

## The Sharing of the Peace

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with thee.  
*People*          **And with thy spirit.**

## Announcements

### The Holy Communion

#### Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### Eucharistic Prayer 1

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you  
*People*          **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*          **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*          **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Fraction Anthem

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**  
○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**  
○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

## The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

## The Invitation

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

I believe that thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray thee to cometh into my heart. I uniteth myself with thee and embraceth thee with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from thee; let me serve thee in this life until, by thy grace, I come to thy glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

*People:* Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

## The Blessing, Benediction, and Dismissal

Closing Hymn

The glory of these forty days

Hymn 143

*On this second Sunday in Lent, we offer thanksgiving for the ministry of  
Christ Episcopal Church (Teaneck) and their food pantry  
supplying food and clothing to those in need.*

*“And thankful for the covid-19 distanced family and friends, and in loving  
memory of the lives of all those who have touched mine” -marty turlin*



## **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES**

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## PASTORAL LETTER: HOW SHALL WE KEEP A HOLY LENT THIS YEAR? FEB. 25, 2021

Dear Companions on the Journey,  
How shall we keep a Holy Lent this year? It will help to start with where we are right now.

In some ways, it feels as if Lent never ended last year. In March 2020, we entered the wilderness of pandemic. While we have grown accustomed to living with COVID19, we also carry the sorrow of so many lives lost, along with the loss of our way of life. It has been a hard year marked by tragic death, historic conflict, racial killings, economic upheaval, and the never-ending worry about the unknown.

Grief may be one of the most underestimated responses in this year of pandemic. At this writing 502,000 Americans have died of COVID19. So many funerals we could not attend. Countless memorial services waiting to be scheduled post-pandemic. We also grieve who we thought we were, a country of people who could unite and conquer any foe. Our nation's inability to work together created a landscape of unnecessary death. Division has lengthened the time we have spent in the wilderness of pandemic, racial strife, economic distress, and political conflict.

Many of us are working or studying at home. Fortunately, many of us stayed well. We have been generous with ourselves and our resources to make sure others have food, friendship, and our prayers. We have learned how to volunteer from our living rooms. And those who are able, have run errands for those who cannot safely do so themselves. We are getting through this. We have adapted to pandemic and we are grieving.

Grief has become a defining characteristic of this time and we are slow to recognize its presence. We tend to say and believe we are "okay" if our life is safe and our family members are well. Yet, we are the body of Christ. We feel losses in the body because compassion is a defining characteristic of our faith. Compassion makes us wonder how others are doing, brings tears to our eyes when we know of suffering, motivates us to care beyond our tight circle of family and friends. Compassion makes us more like Jesus.

How are we to keep these forty days dedicated to God? We could start by bringing our authentic selves rather than an aspirational self into the presence of God. When Jesus heard of John the Baptist's death, he went to a desolate place to be by himself (Matthew 14:13). Could it be that shock and sadness motivated him to be alone in sorrow and prayer? What happened in the short time that he travelled and arrived in a desolate place to restore his compassion for the crowd that soon followed? While we can imagine the scene, we cannot know for sure what took place in his time alone, but one thing is certain, Jesus was his authentic self.

Every year we are invited to observe a holy Lent. This year, I encourage you to bring your authentic self into Lenten observations. Your grief, gratefulness, sorrow, relief, anger, frustration, hopefulness, and all that is your response to this time are invited to observe Lent with you. The practices of Lent found in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 265) require facing the truths of this challenging time. While this is hard spiritual work, it is also freeing spiritual work. God loves us as we are and will not leave us stranded in wilderness or grief.

I know God is calling us to be a new kind of church for the future. A church that sees the hungry crowd in need of healing and is moved by compassion to respond the way Jesus did. Perhaps Lent in this long wilderness of pandemic is shaping us into authentic followers of Jesus Christ. Our sorrows and sighs may take us to a desolate place on the way to finding the promise of God's healing and restoration.

You have my prayers for a holy and authentic Lent.

Grace and peace,  
Bishop Hughes